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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Namibia

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Contents

		Page
	Introduction	3
I.	Summary of the proceedings of the review process	3
	A. Presentation by the State under review	3
	B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review	5
II.	Conclusions and/or recommendations	14
Annex		
	Composition of the delegation	28

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fourth session from 18 to 29 January 2016. The review of Namibia was held at the 1st meeting, on 18 January 2016. The delegation of Namibia was headed by the Minister of Justice, Albert Kawana. At its 10th meeting, held on 22 January 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Namibia.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Namibia: Latvia, Morocco and the Republic of Korea.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Namibia:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/NAM/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/NAM/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/NAM/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Namibia through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Namibia stated that Namibia valued the distinct universal and peer-review nature of this mechanism. Namibia had submitted a second-cycle report, which provided information on the implementation of recommendations and on other progress made. The report also provided information on the challenges faced in implementing some of the recommendations. Namibia valued the contribution of civil society in the preparation of the report.

6. Namibia had submitted all outstanding reports on international and regional instruments to which it was party.

7. The Government of Namibia remained committed to delivering on the promises made to build on the progress achieved during the era of peace and stability, and to move into the era of economic emancipation and prosperity for all, where no Namibian would be left behind.

8. Namibia was the driest country in sub-Saharan Africa and frequently bore the brunt of global climate changes in the form of droughts and floods. Namibia was currently experiencing a severe drought that was entering its second year. As a result, the Government had been forced to, inter alia, redirect resources from education, health and infrastructure development to drought relief.

9. The budget of the Office of the Ombudsman had been increased to enable cases of human rights abuses to be investigated and awareness-raising programmes to be carried out. The Office of the Ombudsman had recently completed a draft white paper on the rights of marginalized communities, and had facilitated the process for the preparation and drafting of the National Human Rights Action Plan, which had been adopted by the Government in December 2014.

10. Namibia continued to do well on media freedom. The Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index of 2015 had ranked Namibia seventeenth out of 180 countries in the world and first in Africa in the areas of media pluralism and independence, respect for the safety and freedom of journalists, and the legislative, institutional and infrastructural environment in which the media operated.

11. The overriding challenges experienced by Namibia were in effectively tackling and overcoming unemployment and persistent poverty. As shown by the Gini coefficient, Namibia was one of the most unequal societies in the world, with a huge income gap between the rich and the poor that had been inherited at independence. Namibia was regarded as an upper-middle-income country, mainly due to its per capita gross national income, relatively world-class infrastructure, sophisticated banking system, good coverage of medical services, stable democracy and many other amenities reminiscent of a developed country. Consequently, Namibia had experienced the withdrawal of many international social partners, which had aggravated the challenges.

12. In 2015, the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare had been established, with a mandate of coordinating all programmes aimed at eradicating poverty. The percentage of people receiving social grants, such as disability grants, old age pension, and grants for orphans and vulnerable children, had drastically increased. The Wage Order for Domestic Workers Regulations (under the Labour Act of 2007) which had come into force on 16 December 2014 set the minimum wage and supplementary minimum conditions for employment for domestic workers.

13. A draft law to be tabled in Parliament before the end of 2016 defined the crime of torture in accordance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

14. In 2015, Parliament had passed the Child Care and Protection Act, which dealt, among other things, with juvenile justice, adoption, and protection from harmful cultural practices. The first children's advocate had been appointed in the Office of the Ombudsman.

15. In 2014, the Government had implemented free universal primary education in public schools, which had been extended to secondary education in public schools.

16. Violence against women and children remained a serious concern. The Combating of Domestic Violence Act was currently being reviewed with a view to increasing penalties.

17. In March 2010, a revised National Gender Policy, for 2010-2020, had been launched. The overarching goal was to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of both men and women. Following elections in 2014 and 2015, women made up 41.6 per cent of the representatives in the National Assembly, 23.8 per cent of the representatives on regional councils and 48.2 per cent of the representatives on local authority councils.

18. Maternal mortality remained a concern and measures to reduce maternal mortality had been introduced. Those measures included a road map for an acceleration in the reduction in maternal and neonatal mortality and for a revision of the scope of practice for the health-care profession (nurses and midwives), an increase in capacity-building, information and awareness campaigns on health issues, and prevention of the mother-to-

child transmission of HIV. The 2013 World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on starting antiretroviral treatment earlier had been adopted.

19. The judiciary had introduced a number of measures aimed at reducing the backlog of criminal cases in the courts. The Criminal Procedure Act of 1977) had been amended to give prosecutors authority to issue admission-of-guilt fines in specified cases and circumstances, making court appearances unnecessary. The Magistrates' Commission, an independent body, was considering the possibility of operating Saturday courts specifically in order to deal with the backlog of cases. In addition, the Constitution was amended in 2014 and the Judiciary Act was passed in 2015 to further enhance the independence of the judiciary, with a separate budget and separate administrative staff. Mobile courts would be introduced in 2016.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 96 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. Panama welcomed the adoption of the National Plan on Human Rights 2015-2019, and efforts to provide universal access to education and to end gender inequality, child marriage and sexual violence.

22. The Philippines appreciated the recognition by Namibia that gender-based violence was a serious concern as well as its achievement in providing universal access to health services and to education.

23. While applauding the adoption of gender policies, Portugal was concerned at discrimination against minorities, and at the lack of access to basic rights such as the rights to drinking water, sanitation and education.

24. The Republic of Korea noted the efforts made by Namibia to advance gender equality at all levels, especially through its National Gender Policy and its cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the elimination of child labour.

25. Romania commended Namibia for the particular attention it had paid to the universal periodic review process, notably by its presentation of a mid-term report on the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

26. The Russian Federation noted that, despite a number of existing problems, Namibia had taken effective measures to build democracy and the rule of law through, inter alia, the institution of mechanisms monitoring the implementation of human rights.

27. Senegal welcomed progress on reforming the property laws relating to land and the reducing poverty within the framework of the Vision 2030 project, and efforts in the field of education and health.

28. Serbia acknowledged the efforts that Namibia had made to combat discrimination on all grounds, and encouraged Namibia to take all necessary legal actions to guarantee equal protection of women before the law.

29. Sierra Leone noted the commitment made by Namibia to preventing gender-based violence and to providing universal access to compulsory basic education, which included the creation of mobile schools for nomadic communities.

30. Singapore commended the efforts made by Namibia in protecting the rights of the child and children's welfare, enhancing access to quality education, achieving gender equality and eliminating gender-based violence.

31. Slovakia noted that the backlog of cases in the criminal justice system remained a challenge. Slovakia also noted the persistence of harmful practices against women, despite the Government's focus on achieving gender equality.

32. Slovenia welcomed the creation of human rights institutions and the adoption of policies and measures on human rights, but noted the persistence of harmful practices and the prevalence of violence against women.

33. South Sudan appreciated the strengthening of the institutional human rights framework, the establishment of a human rights department in the Namibian Police Force, and the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

34. Spain commended the ratification of almost all international and regional human rights conventions, and the development of a wide legal framework at the national level. Spain stated that more should be done for the inclusion of indigenous peoples.

35. Sri Lanka observed that the Office of the Ombudsman had maintained "A" status in terms of the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles) consecutively for the past nine years, and welcomed efforts at promoting gender equality and protecting children against sexual violence.

36. The State of Palestine welcomed progress made in addressing poverty and underdevelopment, despite several challenges such as droughts, a lack of available resources, and insufficient assistance from the international community.

37. Swaziland was pleased that the wage order and regulations for domestic workers setting the minimum conditions for their employment had come into force in 2014. Swaziland also welcomed the emphasis given by Namibia to children's rights and welfare.

38. Sweden welcomed the passing of the Child Care and Protection Act, which included provisions aimed at safeguarding children in prisons. Sweden stated that the implementation of the legislation was of vital importance.

39. The delegation of Namibia stated that the second National Conference on Gender-Based Violence, held in July 2014, had examined underlying causes and trends, national responses and approaches with respect to combating gender-based violence. Recommendations adopted by the Conference had been approved by the Cabinet. The Criminal Procedure Act (Act No. 51 of 1977) as amended made provision for support for vulnerable witnesses; social workers in the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare also provided support for vulnerable witnesses. Several multimedia public awareness campaigns had been launched. Fifteen specialized women and child protection units had been established to protect and provide services to survivors of gender-based violence. The Gender-Based Violence and Human Rights Cluster, one of six clusters of the coordination mechanism for the implementation of the National Gender Policy, advised the Government on strategies for eradicating gender-based violence.

40. One of the seven themes of the National Human Rights Action Plan was the right not to be discriminated against. The specific objectives under that theme included enhancing affirmation of the rights of people with disabilities, indigenous people, women, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons; having information on the extent to which human rights of people with disabilities, indigenous people, women, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons were infringed; intensifying education and raising awareness; and implementing the legal and regulatory reform that would give effect to the non-discriminatory provisions in various international and regional instruments. New legislation would be adopted to prohibit discrimination.

41. The delegation stated that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons persons were not victimized or persecuted for practising their preferred sexual orientation. Article 13 of the Constitution protected the right to privacy. No person was requested to disclose his or her preferred sexual orientation in any official government form or document and no person could be refused access to public or private services on the basis of their sexual preference. The laws did not make provision for marriage between adults of the same sex.

42. In view of the colonial history of the country, during which the policies and laws of the colonial occupying Power had been systematically aimed at disadvantaging the majority black population, the framers of the Constitution saw fit to attempt to correct some of the wrongs of the past. To that end, Parliament had been empowered by the Constitution to promulgate affirmative action legislation aimed at achieving a balanced structuring of the public service, including the police, the defence forces and the prison service. The Government had passed the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act (Act No. 29 of 1998), which included measures for achieving equal opportunity in employment for racially disadvantaged persons, women and persons with disabilities. The Public Service Commission had also been pursuing an affirmative action programme. Racial discrimination by the Government and its agencies and by private persons or institutions had been prohibited and was criminalized by the Racial Discrimination Prohibition Act (Act No. 26 of 1991).

43. The delegation stated that Namibia was a party to the core international and regional human rights instruments. The remaining instruments, to which Namibia was not yet a party, would be continuously studied in order to assess the country's ability to comply with the obligations that they would impose. Namibia followed a monist approach to the recognition of international instruments and the rules of international law in its domestic legal system. A thorough study of international instruments was being conducted to ensure that national laws were harmonized in order to comply with the provisions of those instruments before they were signed, ratified or acceded to. Namibia had no intention of condoning the violation of the rights of migrant workers and their families and they were already protected under domestic labour laws.

44. The former Yugosla[illegible]epublic of Macedonia welcomed the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019, but noted that, according to United Nations bodies, it would be necessary to intensify reforms, particularly in regard to the rights of the child.

45. Togo congratulated Namibia on the progress made since the first universal periodic review and on creating various mechanisms for human rights protection, and noted that women enjoyed the same rights as men in regard to land as property.

46. Trinidad and Tobago commended Namibia for the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019 and for its efforts since the first review to increase the capacity of the Office of the Ombudsman.

47. Turkey welcomed the creation of the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and the efforts of Namibia in the area of media freedom and independence and in the fight against child abuse.

48. Uganda commended the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019, the establishment of the Interministerial Committee and the appointment of a minister for marginalized communities.

49. Ukraine welcomed the positive changes that had been made to the national legislation with a view to promoting and protecting children's rights. However, it noted that

violence against children, poor standards of health facilities and health disparities in rural areas remained serious challenges.

50. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted the high prevalence of violence against women. It was concerned at customary practices that impeded the promotion of gender equality. It encouraged the repeal of laws that made same-sex relationships illegal.

51. The United Republic of Tanzania was impressed with the achievements in tackling poverty in line with Vision 2030. It commended Namibia for its commitment to empowering women with knowledge and skills. It encouraged Namibia to continue with land reform and resettlement programmes.

52. The United States of America noted the prevalence of gender-based violence and of violence against children. It urged the adoption of implementing regulations to enforce the Child Care and Protection Act.

53. Uruguay noted the high number of reports submitted to treaty bodies for review and encouraged Namibia to follow up on the recommendations received from those bodies. It also noted the progress made in regard to the wages of domestic workers and access to drinking water.

54. Uzbekistan stated that steps had been taken to strengthen the normative and institutional basis for the protection of human rights, which included the National Human Rights Action Plan, the National Gender Policy, and the establishment of the office of the Media Ombudsman.

55. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the significant social investment that had been made in education, and the building of 90 new primary health-care clinics, 45 medical centres and 4 hospitals.

56. Zambia noted that 40 recommendations from the previous review had been fully implemented in 2015, which had resulted, inter alia, in the establishment of a human rights department within the Namibian Police Force.

57. Zimbabwe commended Namibia for implementing 40 recommendations from its first review. It noted the National Gender Policy and the initiatives taken to promote the rights of indigenous peoples.

58. Afghanistan appreciated the dedication that Namibia had shown to protecting children's rights and eliminating all forms of gender-based violence, as well as the measures that the country had taken to comply with its international human rights obligations.

59. Algeria welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019, as well as the efforts in regard to the administration of the penitentiary system, poverty reduction, and access to education, health care and safe drinking water.

60. Angola noted the progress that Namibia had made, particularly the adoption of legislation to guarantee equality to men and women and to prohibit discrimination. It welcomed legislation regarding the salaries of domestic workers.

61. Argentina congratulated Namibia on the launching of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019 and noted the efforts to combat gender-based violence and discrimination suffered by women and girls.

62. The delegation of Namibia stated that Namibia had ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and that consultations were under way to ratify its Optional Protocol. Plans were also under way to take legislative and other measures to criminalize torture and establish a national preventive

mechanism. In the absence of a national preventive mechanism, the Ombudsman visited prisons and places of detention to receive complaints from inmates and to inspected the facilities. The Correctional Service Act (Act No. 9 of 2012) provided for visiting justices to visit correctional facilities.

63. The Namibian Correctional Service provided a health-care services section at each of the bigger correctional facilities and nursing services at each of the smaller facilities. Inmates were treated on the premises and serious cases were referred to State health facilities. All HIV-positive inmates had access to free antiretroviral treatment. All inmates had access to hygiene products and received three meals a day, while those with "lifestyle diseases" such as HIV and AIDS received a special diet, as stipulated in the Correctional Service menu. Several measures to improve the standards of living in correctional facilities were being implemented. A new law, the Correctional Service Act (Act No. 9 of 2012) and its regulations had come into force, which had repealed the Prisons Act (Act No. 17 of 1998). The Inmate Information Handbook allowed inmates to lodge complaints with the correctional authorities or with the Namibian Police Force. A code of conduct had been issued by the Office of the Commissioner-General in 2008 and had been revised in 2014.

64. After the National Land Conference of 1991, two approaches to land reform had been adopted, with the aim of acquiring and redistributing commercial agricultural land to redress past imbalances in land ownership. The Government had aquired land from commercial farm owners through the willing seller willing buyer and the expropriation principles and through tenure reform in the communal areas to ensure tenure security via the registration of communal land rights. This had resulted in the adoption of policies including the National Resettlement Policy of 2001 and the Communal Land Reform Act (Act No. 5 of 2002). Land reform had contributed to the reduction of poverty. It had given target groups an opportunity to produce their own food with a view to self-sufficiency. It created employment through farming and related activities and brought smallholder farmers into the mainstream economy via their participation in an open market economy. It had also allowed previously disadvantaged groups to have subsidized loans to buy commercial farms.

65. The delegation stated that the Cabinet had directed that specific legislation to combat trafficking in persons should be drafted and be tabled before Parliament as soon as possible. It was anticipated that the bill would be tabled in Parliament in 2016. In the meantime, there was a provision criminalizing this offence under the Prevention of Organized Crime Act (Act No. 29 of 2004).

66. Steady progress had been made in combating and eliminating child labour through an action programme developed in 2011. A technical cooperation programme on elimination of child labour in the country had also been produced. The Directorate of Labour Inspectors in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare had conducted periodic inspections on farms and at other places of employment in order to identify cases of child labour. The Labour Act (Act No. 11 of 2007) had statutory provisions in place to regulate child labour. The Child Care and Protection Act had been passed by Parliament in 2015 and would be implemented once the relevant regulations had been passed.

67. The delegation stated that Namibia recognized the need to raise the age of criminal responsibility of children and bring it into line with international standards. The Child Justice Bill, along with other provisions, would set the minimum age of criminal capacity for children in compliance with international standards.

68. Australia appreciated the leadership that Namibia had shown in advocating for the abolition of the death penalty, particularly through universal periodic review recommendations. It remained concerned that traditional laws and customary practices that were harmful to girls and women persisted.

69. Austria acknowledged the sustained engagement of Namibia with the universal periodic review. It asked about the steps envisaged, as had been announced in 2015, to ensure that women in customary marriages enjoyed rights equal to those of women in civil marriages.

70. Bangladesh appreciated the efforts made to promote and protect human rights and noted the progress that had been made in the areas of health, education and poverty reduction.

71. Benin welcomed the efforts made by Namibia, notably the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019, the adoption of a public policy in favour of equality, and a project on human rights education.

72. Botswana remained concerned about reports of a high prevalence of violence against girls and women, the lack of special detention facilities for children, and the minimum age of criminal responsibility being 7 years.

73. Burkina Faso recognized efforts made in the areas of access to justice, human rights training for law enforcement officials, and detention conditions. It considered that Namibia should improve women's access to land and should reduce the maternal mortality rate.

74. Burundi welcomed efforts to reinforce access to justice, the National Human Rights Action Plan, the creation of the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the establishment of a human rights department within the Namibian Police Force.

75. Canada commended Namibia for its commitments to set targets for improving human rights promotion and protection, to address violence against women and to protect children, through various action plans and bills.

76. Chad welcomed the efforts by Namibia to honour commitments made during the 2011 review. It noted that Namibia cooperated with the treaty bodies and had responded positively to requests for visits by special procedures.

77. Chile welcomed progress to combat gender-based violence and violence against children. It noted positive steps towards the respect and guarantee of human rights.

78. China recognized the efforts made to combat poverty and underdevelopment, as well as the progress made with regard to gender equality and increasing the living standards of its population by granting access to water, education and health care.

79. The Congo encouraged Namibia to pursue efforts for the integration of marginalized children into the education system, for the prevention and care of pregnancies in the school system, and for addressing gender-based and sexual violence.

80. Costa Rica valued the efforts to improve access to justice, to investigate human rights violations and to improve the political representation of women. It shared the concerns of the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the trafficking in children.

81. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the adoption of various legislative measures, such as the adoption of a national policy and plan of action on gender equality.

82. Cuba appreciated the efforts to combat poverty, such as the programmes for land distribution, housing and safe drinking water. It noted actions taken to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and to protect children.

83. The Czech Republic appreciated the responses to its advance questions. It requested more information about the reported intention of Namibia to withdraw from the International Criminal Court.

84. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea appreciated the commitment, the consistent efforts and the achievements in protecting and promoting human rights.

85. The Democratic Republic of the Congo invited Namibia to ratify the human rights conventions to which it had agreed to accede in its first universal periodic review.

86. Denmark welcomed the acceptance by Namibia of recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment during its first universal periodic review, and expressed the hope that concrete steps were being taken to honour that commitment.

87. Djibouti commended Namibia on its adoption in 2015 of the Child Care and Protection Act.

88. Ecuador highlighted the measures taken by Namibia to combat poverty and inequality, among them the plan entitled Vision 2030.

89. Egypt applauded the efforts made by Namibia in the area of economic and social rights and called on the country to continue that progress.

90. Estonia called on Namibia to issue a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders, to decriminalize defamation and to adopt all-encompassing freedom-of-information legislation.

91. Ethiopia commended Namibia on the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019.

92. Fiji welcomed the steps taken to provide accessible education to all, but noted that for some minority groups, education was still costly.

93. France requested to know about measures that would be taken, if any, to address the problems of abandonment of newborn babies and maternal mortality, in the light of the prohibition on abortion.

94. Gabon welcomed the establishment of the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

95. Georgia encouraged Namibia to submit a mid-term report on the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, as it had done for the first cycle.

96. Germany noted that gender-based violence remained a serious concern, although Namibia was committed to combating violence against women and children.

97. Ghana appreciated steps taken by Namibia to upgrade and improve conditions of detention and welcomed the adoption of the first National Human Rights Action Plan.

98. Haiti thanked Namibia for its inclusive and comprehensive national report.

99. Honduras commended Namibia for the adoption of the National Gender Policy and its plan of action, the Child Care and Protection Act and national plans on education.

100. Iceland noted with concern the criminalization of sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex.

101. India requested that Namibia share more details about the challenges being faced in implementing Vision 2030, which was focused on improving the quality of life of Namibians.

102. Indonesia stated that measures could be taken to prevent the exploitation of migrant workers.

103. Iraq made a recommendation.

104. Kenya commended Namibia for the strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman and for efforts to provide free legal aid.

105. The delegation of Namibia stated that it had put in place several measures to reduce poverty, with a view to eventually eradicating it. At a national conference on wealth redistribution and poverty eradication, held on 26 October 2015, the President declared that the first step in the fight against poverty was the recognition that all Namibians deserve a dignified life. A dignified life, as articulated by the President, included decent employment, shelter, water, sanitation, education and access to health care.

106. Research by the World Bank had shown that the Namibian budget was indeed pro-poor. That was not only because of the generous social grants, but also because of the tax system, which was progressive in nature. The delegation stated that the Government would introduce a solidarity tax in the next budget through which it would call on every Namibian earning an income above a certain threshold to make a contribution towards a fund that would be earmarked for poverty eradication activities. Another form of solidarity tax under consideration would be to entice owners of companies to dilute the shareholding to include workers, thereby redistributing more of the company's income downwards, instead of upwards as is the case when shareholding is concentrated in the hands of a few.

107. Food banks would be established to bring hunger to a halt, especially in urban areas, where there was no access to productive land. It was the pledge of the Government that no child should go hungry "in the Namibian House". Namibia could eradicate poverty by 2025, beating the global deadline of 2030.

108. A recommendation on extending a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders had not been supported during the first review because of the preference of the Government to decide if and when such invitations should be extended. Namibia attached great importance to the work of the special procedure mandate holders, and three mandate holders had visited the country since the last review. Namibia was willing to consider extending an invitation to any mandate holder and would render its usual support and cooperation to the mandate holders concerned.

109. Legislation had been enacted to ensure consultation with, and the participation of, indigenous peoples in decision-making processes relating to traditional sites and objects. In that context, the delegation referred to the Traditional Authorities Act (Act No. 25 of 2000), the Communal Land Reform Act (Act No. 5 of 200), the Forest Act (Act No. 12 of 2001), the Environmental Management Act (Act No. 7 of 2007) and the National Heritage Act (Act No. 27 of 2004).

110. In response to questions and recommendations on access to health care, on excessive fees and on legal abortions, the delegation stated that both the public and private sectors funded the health-care system. The public system provided services to the majority of the population and was predominantly funded through general taxation, while the private health-care system, which provided either comprehensive or partial health-care coverage, was funded largely through employee and employer contributions. Namibia was close to meeting its per capita spending goal on health, reaching 14.3 per cent in 2008/09, just short of the 15 per cent target set in the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases of 2001 All Namibians, without discrimination, had access to health facilities across the country and there was no government policy authorizing any official at any of those facilities to refuse anyone medical care, even when the person concerned was unable to pay the minimal fee imposed. Senior citizens had access to all public health-care facilities free of charge.

111. The delegation stated that Namibia was a product of the international community and would continue to cooperate with the international community. Namibia was subject to the resolution passed by the African Union in 2013 regarding the International Criminal

Court and would express its position under the auspices of the African Union. Namibia intended to work with the African Union to find an amicable solution to this issue.

112. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted the progress made in promoting freedom of expression, improving education, improving access to health-care services and reducing poverty.

113. Latvia welcomed measures to address poverty, provide clean water, increase the number of health facilities and ensure access to education.

114. Lebanon commended Namibia for its National Human Rights Action Plan and for the progress made in terms of education, social policy and health.

115. Lesotho noted the initiatives taken by Namibia for the advancement of human rights in the country.

116. Liechtenstein welcomed the programmes to combat gender-based violence and encouraged Namibia to continue these efforts.

117. Libya welcomed the adoption of new laws in the field of human rights and the efforts made in eradicating poverty.

118. Madagascar welcomed the legislative and institutional efforts made by Namibia, particularly in setting up the Interministerial Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Committee.

119. Malaysia noted that Namibia had launched its National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019. It encouraged Namibia to continue its positive efforts in ameliorating the standard of living of its people.

120. Mauritius noted the creation of a human rights division within the Namibian Police Force. It encouraged Namibia to pursue the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019.

121. Mexico welcomed the approval of the Child Care and Protection Act and recognized the measures adopted to eradicate gender violence.

122. Montenegro asked Namibia to elaborate on the level of implementation of the National Sanitation Strategy for the period 2010-2015.

123. Morocco welcomed the role played by the Ombudsman in ensuring that human rights were a part of school curricula.

124. Mozambique noted the fact that Namibia was considering a draft bill that would criminalize torture as a specific offence.

125. Myanmar welcomed measures taken to ensure the right to education for all children and the abolishment of the compulsory parental financial contribution to the School Development Fund.

126. The Netherlands noted the efforts made to combat HIV/AIDS, particularly the progress in preventing mother-to-child transmission and in access to medications. It expressed its willingness to share its experiences in developing a national action plan on business and human rights.

127. Nicaragua highlighted the efforts to eliminate all forms of gender violence and to achieve greater equality between men and women, and encouraged Namibia to continue along this path.

128. The Niger welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019, and efforts to set up a ministry to address poverty and to promote social protection.

129. Nigeria commended Namibia for introducing poverty reduction programmes, adopting legislation to increase employment, bringing about prison reforms, regulating the wages of domestic workers, and replacing the High Court rules on immovable property.

130. Oman made recommendations.

131. Pakistan stated that the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019, training for police officials, the Electoral Act of 2014, the Employment Service Act of 2011 and the National Gender Policy would further contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights.

132. South Africa was encouraged by the efforts that Namibia had made to provide legal protection for women through its Constitution and legislation, its strides in good governance and its impressive results in regard to primary school enrolment rates.

133. Tunisia noted progress that had been made since the first universal periodic review cycle, particularly the adoption of national plans for children and for gender equality, and the creation of Ombudsman's offices to deal with issues related to the media and to children.

134. Brazil noted, as a good precedent for the follow-up to the recommendations, the elaboration of the national report by an interministerial committee, in dialogue with civil society. It suggested the integration of recommendations into domestic laws and policies.

135. The delegation of Namibia stated that Namibia had no national legislation directly related to indigenous peoples and that the term "marginalized people" was used. One of resolutions of the National Land Conference of 1991 had been that the land rights of disadvantaged communities should receive special protection, with the San and other marginalized communities receiving specific mention. The National Resettlement Policy of 2001 identified the San as a specific target group for resettlement, which was given conditional rights in terms of hunting concessions.

136. The delegation of Namibia thanked all the other delegations for their participation in the review. Their valuable input, comments and recommendations served as guidance for bettering the lives of the people of Namibia.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

137. **The following recommendations will be examined by Namibia, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council, in June 2016:**

137.1 **Consider ratifying the outstanding international human rights instruments and further update their national laws to be in line with those treaties (Lesotho);**

137.2 **Accelerate the process for the ratification of international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Benin);**[1]

137.3 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

[1] The recommendation made during the interactive dialogue was "Accelerate the process for the ratification of international human rights instruments to which it is a party (Benin)".

137.4 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Madagascar);

137.5 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Niger);

137.6 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal);

137.7 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);

137.8 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);

137.9 Consider adhering to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Côte d'Ivoire);

137.10 Consider the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);

137.11 Consider ratifying the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ecuador);

137.12 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);

137.13 Accede to the international instruments to which it is not a party (Congo);

137.14 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);

137.15 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal);

137.16 Ratify the Convention against Torture and the optional protocol thereto (Portugal);

137.17 That the necessary measures to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture be adopted, in conformity with the commitments made by Namibia during the first universal periodic review cycle (Chile);

137.18 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, as previously recommended (Mauritius);

137.19 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Senegal);

137.20 Take measures towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);

137.21 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Honduras);

137.22 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Tunisia);

137.23 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Sweden);

137.24 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Congo);

137.25 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Estonia);

137.26 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Lebanon);

137.27 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);

137.28 Intensify its efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);

137.29 Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (France);

137.30 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and ensure a timely establishment of an effective national preventive mechanism (Czech Republic);

137.31 Ratify the UNESCO Convention on discrimination in education (Tunisia);

137.32 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Tunisia);

137.33 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Congo);

137.34 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Togo);

137.35 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Madagascar);

137.36 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ghana);

137.37 Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);

137.38 Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Oman);

137.39 Adhere to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);

137.40 Adhere to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay);

137.41 Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Madagascar);

137.42 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Montenegro);

137.43 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and opt in to the inquiry and inter-state procedures (Slovakia);

137.44 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Montenegro);

137.45 Consider the ratification of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Côte d'Ivoire);

137.46 Ratify the ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);

137.47 Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC (Latvia);

137.48 Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute of the ICC (Estonia);

137.49 Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute with a view to contributing to the activation of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over the crime of aggression in 2017 (Liechtenstein);

137.50 Reconsider the country's position on a possible withdrawal as a State Party to the ICC Rome Statute (Austria);

137.51 Incorporate into the Constitution and the national legislation the right to enjoy the highest standards possible of mental and physical health (Egypt);

137.52 Update the constitutional provisions regarding the definition of a child to be in harmony with the overall definition in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Kenya);

137.53 Expedite the adoption of pending bills such as the Child Care and Protection Act, with a view to ensuring better protection for children against all types of violence and abuses (Republic of Korea);

137.54 Take all necessary measures to effectively implement the Child Care and Protection Act (Slovenia);

137.55 Ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the Child care and Protection Act (United States of America);

137.56 Align the provisions of the nationality law with international human rights standards so as to enable children born in the territory of Namibia whose parents are unknown to acquire nationality of Namibia (Kenya);

137.57 Abolish laws and practices discriminating against women and girls (Panama);

137.58 Abolish all harmful and discriminatory customary laws and practices which are directed towards women and girls (Australia);

137.59 Take measures to review all relevant legislation with a view to end discrimination against women and girls (Slovakia);

137.60 Expedite the enactment of existing Bills that would impact on the enjoyment of women's rights (Sierra Leone);

137.61 Step up efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in law and in practice also by adopting the pending Bills that have impact on the enjoyment of women's rights related to marriage, recognition of customary

marriage, procurement, marital property, divorce and intestate succession (Slovenia);

137.62 **Adopt, as soon as possible, the draft laws that promote the rights of women in marriage, marital property and divorce (Uruguay);**

137.63 **Consider revising the Married Persons Equality Act of 1996 in a way that eliminates discriminatory provisions against women, including those affecting marriage, land ownership and inheritance rights (Republic of Korea);**

137.64 **Strengthen legislation to prohibit torture and ill-treatment as well strengthen legislation against human trafficking (Zambia);**

137.65 **Expedite the process for drafting and adopting legislation on the punishment of torture (Burundi);**

137.66 **Review civil laws with the view of putting an end to discrimination against women and girls, in particular rights related to marriage and land property (Turkey);**

137.67 **That legislative measures be adopted to make it possible to harmonize the domestic legal system with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, promulgating legislative initiatives in process, aimed at ensuring equal legal status of men and women (Chile);**

137.68 **Abolish all discriminatory customary laws and practices that violate the rights of women, in accordance with international obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Iceland);**

137.69 **Establish legislative measures to decriminalize sexual relations among adults of the same sex (Spain);**

137.70 **Repeal provisions criminalizing sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex, to respect the principles of equality and non-discrimination among all people (France);**

137.71 **Bring its legislation into conformity with its international human rights obligations by repealing laws that criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex (Iceland);**

137.72 **Bring its law in conformity with its international human rights obligations by repealing all laws which result in, or are likely to result in the discrimination, prosecution and punishment of people solely for their sexual orientation or gender identity (Netherlands);**

137.73 **Adopt the necessary measures aiming at eliminating the normative provisions which criminalize and discriminate against LGBTI persons (Argentina);**

137.74 **Continue to strengthen their national legislation into line with international human rights instruments to which it is a party (Nicaragua);**

137.75 **Implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court including through adopting appropriate national legislation, so as to ensure full cooperation with the ICC and effective investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes before its national courts (Czech Republic);**

137.76 Continue its efforts in drafting the Human Trafficking Legislation, with the active participation of the civil society (Indonesia);

137.77 Elaborate and enact the anti-trafficking legislation in line with international norms and standards (Ukraine);

137.78 Continue to strengthen its human rights institutions and develop additional measures to ensure the effective implementation of their mandate (Lesotho);

137.79 Create a national governmental independent mechanism in charge of the supervision of human rights policies (Morocco);

137.80 Strengthen the capacities of the Ombudsman office (Haiti);

137.81 Strengthen existing mechanisms within its institutional infrastructure to eradicate discriminatory, cultural or based on customary laws, practices to the detriment of women, children, minorities and LGBT groups (Honduras);

137.82 Continue to implement the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019 (Pakistan);

137.83 Adopt and implement a national action plan on gender-based violence with the support from all sectors within the society, including the judiciary (Sweden);

137.84 Adopt and develop a comprehensive national action plan that addresses traditional harmful practices and gender-based violence against women and girls (Botswana);

137.85 Adopt a National Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Netherlands);

137.86 Develop an instrument to monitor the implementation and verification of the recommendations from the previous and current universal periodic reviews, paying special attention to the ratification of international human rights instruments which are pending, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Costa Rica);

137.87 Launch a comprehensive national policy to universalize the right to civil registration, considering its pivotal role to ensure the realization of other human rights, including to an adequate standard of living (Brazil);

137.88 Further strengthen its successful land reform and resettlement program, which grants land to historically disadvantaged groups (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

137.89 Continue implementing its agrarian reform policy and resettlement program by giving land to groups who have been historically disadvantaged (Cuba);

137.90 Pursue its land reform and resettlement program in order to enable underprivileged persons to have access to land, given that the right to land is a fundamental human right (Angola);

137.91 Continue Government's efforts with its land reform and resettlement programme, both at the rural and urban level (South Africa);

137.92 Implement effectively the Green Scheme, the San Development, Land distribution, the Mass Housing Programme, Water Supply and Sanitation, Safe

drinking water, and Equipment Aid Scheme to SMEs (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

137.93 **Maintain efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, considering their specific needs and capabilities, through the empowerment of their rights, and fair reparation mechanisms (Ecuador);**

137.94 **Continue its efforts to promote human rights in all spheres, in particular in regard to protecting the victims of violence (Iraq);**

137.95 **Step up human rights education for traditional authorities (Costa Rica);**

137.96 **Implement awareness-raising campaigns to educate individuals and traditional authorities on the violation of rights by harmful and discriminatory customary laws and practices, in particular on the need to ensure that these do not violate the rights of women and children (Latvia);**

137.97 **Strengthen efforts on youth development and empowerment (South Africa);**

137.98 **Strengthen its cooperation with treaty bodies (Niger);**

137.99 **Submit overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);**

137.100 **Make effort to submit outstanding human rights reports to relevant bodies (Ethiopia);**

137.101 **Extend a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (Turkey);**

137.102 **In the spirit of ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and Namibia, extend an open and standing invitation to the United Nations special procedures (Chile);**

137.103 **While acknowledging the efforts to cooperate with special procedures, consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders (Georgia);**

137.104 **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Germany);**

137.105 **Extend a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (Panama);**

137.106 **Extend a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (Portugal);**

137.107 **Extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedure mandate holders (Latvia);**

137.108 **Continue to take steps in order to ensure the full equality between men and women and to combat all forms of discrimination against women (Romania);**

137.109 **Continue to promote equality between men and women in the application of their national legislation and the implementation of public policies (Nicaragua);**

137.110 **Continue to promote the empowerment of women and their participation in society (Nicaragua);**

137.111 Take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, particularly in relation to marriage, land ownership and inheritance rights (Mexico);

137.112 Double efforts towards gender equality and the empowerment of women through education and skills training (Malaysia);

137.113 Remove existing barriers to the full participation of women in economic life so as to further reduce poverty and inequality (Germany);

137.114 Work to eliminate traditional practices and repeal laws detrimental to women and girls (Haiti);

137.115 Make further efforts to end discrimination, domestic violence and violence in schools against women (Oman);

137.116 Continue to pay close attention to the full realization of the rights of women and girls (Portugal);

137.117 Intensify efforts aimed at accelerating the elimination of discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, including through the development of the proposed national database on gender-based violence (State of Palestine);

137.118 Implement awareness-raising campaigns and education programs, working closely with traditional authorities, to promote and protect the rights of women and girls (Australia);

137.119 Implement policies dealing with the stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS (South Africa);

137.120 Ensure the issuance of birth registration documents for all children born on its territory (Romania);

137.121 Expedite efforts to ensure that a birth certificate is issued free of charge for all children without discrimination, including children born in rural and poor areas (Turkey);

137.122 Ensure the registration of all new born as a way to generate reliable statistics and data (Mexico);

137.123 Continue to encourage the immediate registration of newly born children, and introduce mechanisms to ensure that the absence of a parent does not prevent the registration of the child concerned (Uruguay);

137.124 Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with general comment No. 10 (2007) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Uruguay);

137.125 Develop a comprehensive national strategy to prevent all forms of violence against children, with particular attention to its gender dimension (Ukraine);

137.126 Fully implement and enforce laws on elimination of violence against children (Ukraine);

137.127 Continue to promote the rights of children by fighting effectively against corporal punishment (Djibouti);

137.128 Prohibit all corporal punishment of children, including in the home (Estonia);

137.129 Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Tunisia);

137.130 Improve mechanisms of legal and social protection of children against sexual violence (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

137.131 Take further steps to eliminate harmful practices, and to abolish child, early and forced marriages (Sierra Leone);

137.132 Continue to take steps to ensure the full and effective implementation of its Child Care and Protection Act to guard against all forms of child abuse (Singapore);

137.133 Explicitly prohibit traditional practices that put at risk the physical and psychological integrity of women and girls (Argentina);

137.134 Strengthen measures aimed at eliminating all forms of gender-based violence (Zambia);

137.135 Continue efforts to combating customary practices which tolerate gender-based violence and discrimination against women (Algeria);

137.136 Step up its efforts in eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls and in that context improve the national legislation in accordance with relevant international human rights standards (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);

137.137 Take measures to prevent all incidents of violence against women, in particular in rural areas; and ensure effective interventions by law enforcement officials responding to allegations of violence committed by intimate partners; and prosecute perpetrators (Canada);

137.138 Strengthen the legal framework to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence (Serbia);

137.139 Ensure that all cases of violence against women and girls are investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice (Slovenia);

137.140 Ensure appropriate protection is offered to the victims of gender-based violence including enabling them to seek police assistance, leading to prosecution of the perpetrators as appropriate (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

137.141 Allocate the resources necessary for the full implementation of the Zero Tolerance Campaign against Gender Based Violence (Canada);

137.142 An effective implementation of the combating of the domestic violence act to reduce gender-based violence (China);

137.143 Increase efforts to fight against gender violence by fully implementing the "National Gender Policy" and the national action plan against gender violence 2012-2016, and by ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice (France);

137.144 Effectively implement the Zero Tolerance Campaign and key interventions of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015 with regard to gender-based violence (Germany);

137.145 Continue its efforts to combat violence against women and children at the national level, as previously recommended (Germany);

137.146 Redouble efforts in addressing gender-based violence, with the support of the international community (Mozambique);

137.147 Strengthen collaboration with the relevant stakeholders to address the causes of gender-based violence (Singapore);

137.148 Adopt further measures to combat violence and sexual abuse against girls and women, as well as violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation (Brazil);

137.149 Take all relevant measures to fight against sexual violence and bring perpetrators to justice (Togo);

137.150 Enforce legislation to prevent sexual violence and sexual exploitation (Uzbekistan);

137.151 Allocate adequate funding and provide necessary human resources to fully implement policies and programmes aimed at eradicating all forms of gender-based violence (Philippines);

137.152 Redouble its efforts to enforce the relevant legislation such as the Combating of Rape Act to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence, and continue the ongoing efforts to address the root causes and contributing factors of the violence (Republic of Korea);

137.153 Take steps to improve prison conditions and, particularly, ensure that adults and minor prisoners are separated at all times (Australia);

137.154 Ensure that minors are protected in prison, including by separating them from adults (Djibouti);

137.155 Adopt provisions to ensure that detained children are always held separately from adults (Sweden);

137.156 Take measures to ensure that children are housed in separate facilities from adults in cases of detention (Trinidad and Tobago);

137.157 Ensure all juvenile offenders are housed separately from adult prisoners in Correctional Facilities (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

137.158 Take additional measures to address issues of overcrowding in its prisons in compliance with international standards (Ghana);

137.159 Improve health, sanitation and habitability conditions in prisons, including a decrease in overcrowding (Spain);

137.160 Combat and address the worst forms of child labour by punishing offenders and by conducting research on the prevalence of child labour (United States of America);

137.161 Take all measures to eradicate child labour, particularly in the informal sector and rural areas (Uzbekistan);

137.162 Intensify its efforts in the area of prevention and fight against trafficking in particular girls and children in situation of vulnerability (Honduras);

137.163 Continue efforts in the prevention of human trafficking, with special attention to investigation and prosecution of all cases of sale and trafficking of children (Serbia);

137.164 Strive to reduce the timelines before the Courts and to expedite rulings (China);

137.165 Provide resources to introduce case management systems in both criminal and civil court registries to clear the backlog of cases and set out the times lines for the disposal of cases in accordance with the rights of every person to trial and justice within a reasonable time (Fiji);

137.166 Ensure that Namibia's juvenile justice system is in line with international standards (Botswana);

137.167 Raise the age of criminal responsibility so that it complies with international standards, create an effective juvenile justice system and provide separate detention and prison facilities for juvenile offenders and appropriate training for personnel working in the juvenile justice system (Czech Republic);

137.168 Ensure that members of the security forces responsible for violations of human rights are brought to justice, and improve prison conditions (France);

137.169 Consider establishing legal assistance offices in order to assist those who cannot afford the services of a private lawyer (Haiti);

137.170 Ensure that women — in particular women pursuing divorce or having experienced gender-based violence — have effective access to justice in all parts of the country (Liechtenstein);

137.171 Establish a prosecution mechanism for perpetrators of violence against women and girls (Turkey);

137.172 Ensure that all cases of violence against women and girls are thoroughly and effectively investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted ex officio and adequately punished (Liechtenstein);

137.173 Continue efforts to strengthen the capacity and compatibility between the investigation and prosecution of cases (South Sudan);

137.174 Establish mobile courts especially in the rural areas (Uganda);

137.175 Establish a mechanism under which victims of gender-based violence can file for protection orders in towns and villages where there is no magistrate, and under which protection orders can be filed outside of designated court hours (United States of America);

137.176 Regarding the "Caprivi" trial provide adequate compensation for the 35 persons acquitted who had spent long periods in remand detention (Austria);

137.177 Continue to support the family which is one of the main actors in achieving sustainable development goals in any state (Russian Federation);

137.178 Continue its work in upholding family as the basic social institution and in the protection of its rights (Bangladesh);

137.179 Enhance the law on the freedom of the media and promulgate laws on the freedom of expression (Lebanon);

137.180 Continue the practice of holding public meetings with senior authorities in the country, so that persons from the communities can have access to higher authorities and participate in the process of seeking solutions and decision-making (Cuba);

137.181 Enhance the participation of grass-roots people in decision-making processes regarding their welfare (Zimbabwe);

137.182 Increase poverty reduction and development policies that promote the participation of vulnerable groups in decisions regarding their rights and interests (Mexico);

137.183 Make progress in the effective realization of human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation through increasing the public water infrastructures, particularly in rural areas and in informal urban settlements, through the adequate training and awareness-raising on sanitation of the local communities who benefit from these services (Spain);

137.184 Ensure access to clean water supply and proper sanitation (Malaysia);

137.185 Continue to undertake measures to eliminate poverty and combat unemployment (Sri Lanka);

137.186 Strengthen the mechanism to fight against poverty, especially encouraging programmes aimed at child malnutrition (Turkey);

137.187 Accelerate ongoing efforts to address the root causes of poverty and hunger so as to uplift the living standards of the poor (Zimbabwe);

137.188 Continue its efforts towards reducing poverty through continuing setting up programs aimed at this purpose (Libya);

137.189 Further strengthen the successful implementation of the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, in the fight against poverty (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

137.190 Continue to promote access to health (Pakistan);

137.191 Issue clear directives to health officials to prohibit the sterilization of women living with HIV/AIDS without their informed consent (Canada);

137.192 Implement policies and programmes aimed at preventing HIV/AIDS infections (Oman);

137.193 Intensify the efforts in fighting against HIV/AIDS, in particular, to improve access to health-care services in rural areas (Ukraine);

137.194 Continue to strengthen the appropriate health care provided to women, in particular in rural areas (Egypt);

137.195 Strengthen the capacities of health infrastructures in rural and remote areas (Haiti);

137.196 Ramp up the quality and access to health care and legal services in rural areas (Trinidad and Tobago);

137.197 Mitigate the lack of qualified and experienced healthcare professionals by putting in place a national training strategy in the medical and paramedical branches (Morocco);

137.198 Continue efforts to ensure universal access to quality education and health care (Uzbekistan);

137.199 Continue to further enhance access to education and health services in rural areas (State of Palestine);

137.200 Take the necessary measures to guarantee the right to schooling for all children (Algeria);

137.201 Consolidate efforts made to ensure access to education for all citizens without discrimination (Egypt);

137.202 Continue efforts to achieve universal primary education in line with the vision of the National Plan of "Education for all" (Sri Lanka);

137.203 Continue to develop its National Safe School Framework to provide a safe environment for students to receive a good education that is free from harassment, aggression and bullying (Singapore);

137.204 That Namibia's education policies which were designed for inclusivity, be evaluated by the Government for effectiveness in relation to access and affordability for minority cultural groups (Fiji);

137.205 Ensure equal access to education for all children (Portugal);

137.206 Continue its efforts to ensure the right to education for all people (Myanmar);

137.207 Continue to strengthen the educational system and ensure equal access of disabled children to education (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

137.208 Consider introducing civic and human rights education in the school curriculum (Ethiopia);

137.209 Take the necessary measures aimed at preventing discrimination against children with disabilities, children living in extreme poverty and street children (Oman);

137.210 Take steps to improve the access of persons with disabilities to various services (Trinidad and Tobago);

137.211 Take appropriate measures to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities including through proper infrastructure and facilities that can accommodate their needs in schools and in the workplace (Malaysia);

137.212 Take necessary measures to fight against discrimination against people from minority ethnic communities (France);

137.213 Protect fully the human rights of persons belonging to minorities including their rights to water, sanitation, land, education and health as well as access to all public services in an equal and just manner (Portugal);

137.214 Promote the effective access to basic social services for the indigenous minority including San and Himba on an equal footing with the rest of the society, as well as rapid adoption and effective implementation of the "White Paper on Indigenous Rights" drafted by the Ombudsman Office (Spain);

137.215 Take effective measures to eliminate discrimination against the children of indigenous peoples, in particular the Himba and San communities (Uzbekistan);

137.216 Continue with the projects and programs for the protection of indigenous communities, particularly in the field of education of their children (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

137.217 Continue efforts to improve the access to adequate land by ethnic minority groups who have been deprived of their original lands (Austria);

137.218 Facilitate the access of ethnic minority group children to education for instance by allowing them to attend school in their traditional dress or by providing them with free school uniforms (Austria);

137.219 **Continue enhancing the project and programmes aimed at ensuring the protection and the rights of indigenous communities (Democratic People's Republic of Korea).**

138. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Namibia was headed by Honourable Dr. Albert Kawana, Minister of Justice and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mrs. Sabine Böhlke-Möller – Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland, Alternate Head of Delegation
- Mr. Jens Prothmann – Deputy Director, Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, Delegate
- Mr. Simataa Limbo – Chief Legal Office, Ministry of Justice, Delegate
- Mrs. Gladice Pickering – Legal Attaché, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations and Geneva, Delegate
- Mr. Christian Harris – Snr. Legal Officer, Ministry of Justice, Delegate
- Ms. Isabella Rajala – Intern, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations and Geneva, Delegate